

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 15-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 4-14 are canceled, Claims 1-3 are amended and Claims 15-17 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The title of the present application and the abstract are replaced to better reflect the claimed invention. No new matter is added thereby.

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1-3 are amended and Claims 15-17 are added herein. In particular, Claims 1-3 and 15-17 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the claimed invention. Also, Claims 1-3 find support, for example, at page 15, line 20 to, page 16, line 20 of the original specification, at page 18, line 25 to, page 19, line 25 of the original specification, and at page 21, line 5 to, page 24, line 8 of the original specification. In addition, Claims 15-17 find support, for example, at page 24, line 11 to, page 25, line 6 of the original specification, and at page 30, line 1 to, page 32, line 23 of the original specification. No new matter is added thereby.

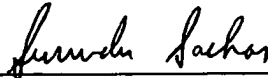
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

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Reply to Office Action of January 6, 2004

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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